IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-23 (Canceled).

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): An [[The]] information recording system ~~according to claim 19~~ for recording information on an optical recording medium, comprising:

a driving component for driving the optical recording medium;

a writing component for forming a visible image pattern by irradiation of light on a recording layer formed in the optical recording medium to generate a change in optical characteristic of the recording layer where pits are formed with the light as compared to a pit-less portion where pits are not formed; and

a data generating component for generating data of the visible image pattern to be formed in the recording layer of the optical recording medium, wherein said writing component modulates the light based on image pattern data generated by said data generating component and irradiates the modulated light on the recording layer, said system further comprising an editing component for editing the image pattern data generated by said data generating component, and a reading component for optically reading information already recorded in the recording layer of the optical recording medium, wherein said editing component detects an unrecorded area in the recording layer based on information read by said reading component or reflected light quantity from said optical recording medium and automatically edits the image

pattern data generated by said data generating component so that the image pattern matches with said detected unrecorded area,

adapted to compare the size of the image pattern to be generated with the unrecorded area for forming said image pattern and to prohibit formation of the visible image pattern when the unrecorded area is smaller than the size of the image pattern.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): An [[The]] information recording system ~~according to claim 19~~ for recording information on an optical recording medium, comprising:

a driving component for driving the optical recording medium;

a writing component for forming a visible image pattern by irradiation of light on a recording layer formed in the optical recording medium to generate a change in optical characteristic of the recording layer where pits are formed with the light as compared to a pit-less portion where pits are not formed; and

a data generating component for generating data of the visible image pattern to be formed in the recording layer of the optical recording medium, wherein said writing component modulates the light based on image pattern data generated by said data generating component and irradiates the modulated light on the recording layer, said system further comprising an editing component for editing the image pattern data generated by said data generating component, and a reading component for optically reading information already recorded in the recording layer of the optical recording medium, wherein said editing component detects an unrecorded area in the recording layer based on information read by said reading component or reflected light quantity from said optical recording medium and automatically edits the image

pattern data generated by said data generating component so that the image pattern matches with said detected unrecorded area,

adapted to compare a width of the visible image pattern to be generated with a width of the unrecorded area for forming the image pattern and to prohibit formation of the visible image pattern when the width of the unrecorded area is smaller than the width of the visible image pattern.

Claim 26 (Canceled).

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): An information recording system for recording information on an optical recording medium, comprising:

a driving component for driving the optical recording medium; and

a writing component for forming a visible image pattern by irradiation of light on a recording layer formed in the optical recording medium to generate a change in optical characteristic of the recording layer where pits are formed with the light as compared to a pit-less portion where pits are not formed, wherein said writing component is commonly used for recording of data of the visible image pattern and for recording of recordable data other than the data of the visible image pattern into the recording ~~area~~ layer of the optical recording medium and, wherein said writing component is adapted to enlarge a spot size of the light when recording said visible image pattern from the spot size used when recording recordable data other than the data of the visible image pattern.

Claims 28-29 (Canceled).

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): An information recording system for recording information on an optical recording medium, comprising:

a driving component for driving the optical recording medium; and

a writing component for forming a visible image pattern by irradiation of light on a recording layer formed in the optical recording medium to generate a change in optical characteristic of the recording layer where pits are formed with the light as compared to a pit-less portion where pits are not formed, wherein said writing component forms said visible image pattern by generation of a difference in reflectance as said change in optical characteristic of the recording layer where pits are formed as compared to the pit-less portion through irradiation of the light on the recording layer formed in the optical recording medium and wherein said writing component is adapted to form an image pattern having a plurality of gray scale levels through provision of different sizes of the pits or different distances between adjacent ones of the pits.

Claims 31-57 (Canceled).